

skills likely led to his demise as being tapped interim provost and then eventually as provost in 2002. And we are so grateful that John was at his position, as this turned out to be a critical time in the history of the University of Vermont.

It is no secret that during the 1990s UVM suffered from several years of unstable and rocky leadership. Not surprisingly, such a rapid turnover at the helm of a major university led to many problems including budget shortfalls; low morale among faculty, staff and students; and, less than stellar relations with the local Burlington and statewide communities. The work of both interim president Ed Colodny and John guided the university to calmer waters during that difficult time, and helped to build a strong and valuable foundation for the incoming president.

Under President Fogel's administration, the university has been reinvigorated and its prestige restored. I am sure that President Fogel would agree when I say to all my colleagues that we owe much to John Bramley for bringing the university into this new, promising chapter in its history.

John is stepping down as provost, but I am glad that I do not have to end this speech with a farewell. John will be returning to what I think he enjoys most, his teaching and research. I know he will continue to be an important part of the University of Vermont community and I look forward to continuing to see him on campus.

IN RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINA FALLON

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President. I rise today to recognize Representative Evelyn K. "Tina" Fallon upon her retirement from Delaware's House of Representatives after more than 28 years of dedicated public service. Known to friends and colleagues alike as "Tina," she is a woman with a kind heart, diverse interests and great abilities. Tina embodies the best of Delaware.

Born in Dudley, NC, on September 16, 1917, Tina has experienced firsthand the many changes that Delaware has undergone over the years and this level of experience will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace.

A longtime resident of Seaford, DE, Tina holds a bachelor of arts degree from Meredith College, located in Raleigh, NC, and a master's degree in education from the University of Delaware. She married her husband, James D. Fallon, Jr., in 1938, and they had four children together. After James' passing in 1982, Tina continued to raise their sons, George, James, William and Howard.

Before winning her first campaign when she was 61 years old, an age when many public servants are ready to retire, Tina worked for more than 25 years as an educator teaching math and science at Seaford High School. This experience has allowed her to speak with authority about Delaware's

education system and the many issues that affect Delaware's young people.

Often recognized as the oldest member of the State legislature, Tina brought a wealth of knowledge to Delaware's House of Representatives along with energy and enthusiasm that belied her age. Her life experience gave her an understanding of faith and family values that transcended party slogans and struck an authentic chord in her constituents and everyone who had the pleasure of calling her their friend.

Representative Fallon quickly became known as one of Delaware's most approachable and hardestworking public officials. Her keen intellect and commonsense approach to problem-solving helped her serve her constituents and make Delaware a better place for us all.

Tina also served as a mentor for incoming members of Delaware's House of Representatives. Her positive attitude and boundless energy set a high standard for her colleagues to follow. A firm believer in acknowledging the hard work and accomplishments of her constituents, Tina was often seen visiting homes and businesses throughout the 39 district while delivering House tributes to those who deserved them.

During my time as Governor, I had the honor of naming Representative Fallon as the "Travel and Tourism Person of the Year" in 1998 for her outstanding work to promote and develop Delaware's tourism industry. Delaware's economic health and many small businesses are better off because of her efforts to promote the first State's historical and natural attractions. Also in 1998, she was honored by the National Republican Legislators Association as a "1998 Legislator of the Year." She was one of only 10 people across the Nation to receive this honor.

As a member of the influential Joint Finance Committee, Representative Fallon helped shape Delaware's multi-billion dollar annual operating budget. Her ability to work with members of both parties made her an invaluable participant in figuring out how best to fund the current and future needs of Delaware. Tina also chairs the House Tourism Committee and is a member of five other committees as well.

Following her retirement, Tina plans to spend time with her children and grandchildren. After such a distinguished career serving the people of Delaware, I am certain that many will agree with me when I say that her retirement is well deserved. I thank Tina for her friendship, applaud her service, and wish her and her family only the very best in all that lies ahead for them.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO, WV TOYOTA PLANT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a milestone in

my home State of West Virginia. Ten years ago, in 1996, a world-renowned automobile company, the Toyota Motor Corp., began producing engines and transmissions in my home State, marking the first major automobile manufacturing plant in West Virginia. In the following 10 years, Toyota Motor Manufacturing of West Virginia, TMMWV, has never stopped expanding. It now employs more than 1,100 people and has invested more than \$1 billion in our State.

But the story actually begins almost 10 years earlier with a series of meetings I had with Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, the son of Toyota's founder and its visionary leader for much of the 1980s and 1990s. I met Dr. Toyoda's father, the company founder, during my time in Japan in the 1960s. He soon introduced me to his son, Shoichiro, who would go on to steer Toyota into the 21st century, beginning production of the Lexus line and the Prius hybrid, as well as turning Toyota into a truly global force in the automobile industry. So in the mid-1980s, very early in my Senate career, I began the long, slow process of trying to woo this great company and great family to invest in West Virginia as a key part of their bold plan for investment in the United States and in North America.

I recall walking through cornfields in Putnam County with the Toyota site selection committee—facing the hurdles of excavation, preparation of the site, the narrow valley in Buffalo, highway infrastructure, and the construction of a bridge to reach the site. By the time Toyota decided to make Buffalo its new home, I felt like a full-fledged member of that site selection team. The cornfield of those days is now a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, with a spotless parking lot outside for the hundreds of West Virginia workers proud to arrive for work there every day.

Many in the company and outside thought this move was a mistake for Toyota. They thought that transportation of materials and people to and from Buffalo would be too difficult. They thought that West Virginians could not do the work.

But Dr. Toyoda saw what others did not—a strong, smart, and friendly workforce and a great place to do business. Although it took many years and a number of meetings with my friend Dr. Toyoda—meetings I now look back upon fondly—Toyota finally decided to place a production facility in West Virginia, and we held our first of many groundbreaking celebrations here in 1996.

Now, Toyota's plant in Buffalo, WV, has gained national and international renown. It is the single most productive engine and transmission facility in all of North America for 3 years running, according to the Harbour Report, which is the auto industry authority on manufacturing efficiency and productivity. Toyota has implemented more recommendations from its Buffalo workforce than from most of its